

THE EXECUTIVE

The State Constitution, Article V, section 1, vests executive power of the State in the Governor. In the absence or disability of the Governor, the power and duties of the Governor shall devolve upon the Lieutenant Governor.

The Governor and the Lieutenant Governor are elected at large by the voters for concurrent four-year terms and must be of the same political party.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Governor is the Chief Executive of the State of Hawaii and is responsible for the faithful execution of the laws of the State and for the effective performance of the executive branch of state government. The Governor establishes the broad goals of the State and determines the priorities for achieving the goals. The Governor provides community, executive, and political leadership for the people of the State, plans for the development of the State and its resources, and provides for the general well-being of the people. The Governor directs the development of the executive budget and the generation of recommendations for revenue producing measures and programs which are submitted to the Legislature for each fiscal biennium and administers the execution of the legislatively approved budget.

The Governor's authority includes the powers to call the Legislature into special session, to veto legislation passed by the Legislature, to grant reprieves and pardons, and to arrange interstate compacts. The Governor is also the commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the State. Unless otherwise provided by law or the Constitution, the Governor nominates and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints members of boards and commissions and members of the Cabinet and fills vacancies in the House of Representatives and the Senate. From a list of nominees submitted to the Governor by the Judicial Selection Commission, the Governor fills vacancies in the Supreme, Intermediate Appellate, and Circuit Courts. In addition, the Governor, as required by the State Constitution, Article V, section 5, appoints an Administrative Director who functions as the Governor's chief of staff and assists in the supervision of the executive departments and major state initiatives.

The Office of the Governor is comprised of six functional areas. They are: (1) Executive, (2) Administration and Operations, (3), Communications, (4) Legislative Affairs; (5) Policy, and (6) Collective Bargaining.

Executive

This section provides the overall direction and the highest level of authority and decision making.

Administration and Operations

This section is responsible for general administration and support for the office staff and the first family, as well as coordinating volunteerism efforts.

Communications

This area is responsible for overseeing and coordinating external communications.

Legislative Affairs

This area is responsible for coordinating support and monitoring status of legislative issues, and processing and maintaining acts and administrative rules.

Policy

This area is responsible for coordinating, assisting the development, and implementing the policies that are set by the Governor. A significant role includes facilitating cooperative efforts among departments where new or complex issues, tasks, and responsibilities overlap.

Office of Collective Bargaining

The Office of Collective Bargaining, established in the Office of the Governor under section 89A-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and headed by the Chief Negotiator, assists the Governor in negotiating with and entering into written contracts between the public employers and public employee union representatives on matters of wages, hours, and other negotiable terms and conditions of employment. The Office also assists the Governor in formulating plans and criteria to measure management's accomplishment of objectives and in formulating management's philosophy and strategy in collective bargaining. It reviews collective bargaining agreements and coordinates the compilation of data required for negotiation.

